GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1389
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2000
RURAL ROAD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
HARIBHAU MAHALE

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had set up Rural Road Development Committee;

(b) if so, whether the committee has since given its recommendations;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the time by which these are likely to be implemented;

(e) whether rural road network is likely to be expanded through the said authority; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government for the construction and development of rural roads in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA)

(a) to (c) The National Rural Road Development Committee (NRRDC) set up under the Chairmanship of Shri Nitin Gadkari has since submitted the report. The main recommendations of the Committee are annexed.

(d) to (f) The National Rural Road Programme, in the context of the recommendations of the NRRDC, is currently being formulated.

Annexure

Annexure referred to in the reply in respect of part of questions (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.1389 admitted for reply on 1.8. 2000.

Main Recommendations of the National Rural Road Development Committee

1. The Government should take up on priority the task of providing good All-weather roads to each and every village in the county in order to free them from the deprivation from lack of access to facilities of health care, education etc. A time bound programme should be drawn up for the task

2. The roads should have black top surface. The width of the carriage way should be 3.75 meters and the width of formation should be 7.5 meters. All the necessary cross drainage works and minor bridges should be constructed.

3. The Union Government should set up a National Rural Road Development Agency Its chairman should be of the status of Cabinet Minister of the Union Cabinet considering the onerous task entrusted to it.

4. The Agency should be authorised to raise finances for the programme by borrowing from suitable sources.

5. The earmarked portion of special cess on petrol and diesel collected every year should be made available for this programme. The Rural Development Department should also make available to the agency Rs.2,500 crores each year from its outlays.This should be non-lapsable.

6. The Central Government should also raise Rs.5,000 crores by issuing tax-free bonds @ maximum 8% for the first five years. Interest on these bonds as far as guarantee for repayment should be given by the Central Government. However, principal repayment would be arranged by the Agency from its funds.

7 In order to ensure full accountability of the Agency to the lenders regarding the quality and proper standards of these works, the agency should itself execute the programme with full co-operation from the State Governments/Zilla Parishads.

8. The land acquisition is to be done by the State Governments.

9. In special difficult areas, the construction work would be entrusted to the Border Road Organisation (BRO).

10. The agency should set up a computer/internet based online Management and Monitoring System.

11. A Committee under the chairmanship of State Chief Secretary should be set up in each state for co-ordination.

12. There should be a separate organisation for quality audit and monitoring of the road works of the agency in each district.

13. After completion of the works, the completed works should be handed over to the State Governments/Zilla Parishads for further maintenance. It should be ensured that adequate provision is made for the maintenance.

14. The Government should encourage the development and use of pneumatic tyred carts instead of the iron tyred ones presently used by way of giving subsidies towards conversion and tax-exemption on tyres.